

LUPE'S DRUG STORE #2

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Daniel Lupariello, R.Ph. Richard Chung R.Ph. Kim Dorsey R.PH.
Re:RAISED BILL 392

My name is Daniel Lupariello and I live at 55 Applewood Drive in Shelton Ct 06484. I am a pharmacist and own Lupe's Drug Store in Bridgeport. My dad started our business in 1946 and we have served the north end of Bridgeport since then. I am writing this today to tell this committee the importance of keeping the independent pharmacy in business. We have been seriously hit by cuts in the last year. Many of our stores are on the verge of closing and some have closed already. As a community pharmacy I take pride in the fact that I am able to take good care of my elderly population, many of whom need delivery service. I provide this service at no charge. I also have many people who live in group homes and have no way to pick up their medications. I provide delivery service to them also at no charge. I say this today and wonder what happens if all the small pharmacies close? Who will deliver to them? Will it be at no charge? Free delivery is not normally done by the big box stores. The hits we took last year in Medicaid and the loss of the state employee plan to CVS has put many of us behind the eight ball. We need your help! We need to be placed on a fair playing field. The big stores OWN their own wholesalers something I can not do. They are able to buy their pharmaceuticals at a much lower price than I can and that is why I am urging you today to restore us back to AWP-14. If we can get this done and our fee raised to \$4.00 we will be able to continue to serve our customers. I employ 16 people all CT. residents and taxpayers. In the past month I have had to let one of my part-time drivers go. I am also considering cutting back my hours by 1 hour a day. I really do not want to do this, as it would cost all my employees a cut in their pay. It is important that the small businesses of this state be treated fairly. They are the backbone of this state! I urge you to approve this bill today and send it on to the House and Senate for final vote.

Thank you,

Daniel Lupariello R.Ph.